

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
CIA 25X1A2g

INFORMATION

DATE 14 Oct 53

Country: Sweden

Subject: Marcus Sholmquist Company/Production Capacity/  
Labor Relations/Carl Magnus Berger, President

Supplement to:

Responsive to:

Place Acquired: - - -  
25X1A2g

Date Acquired : [REDACTED]

Date of Info : 1952 and earlier

25X1X6

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

1. Marcus Sholmquist Company, Halmstad, is the leading manufacturer of centerless grinding machines in Europe. Its consumers constitute nearly every automobile manufacturer in Europe, although production capacity is limited by US standards -- my guess would be 15 machines per month on the average, which could be doubled in an emergency. It also manufactures surface grinding machines and has an extremely high production in twist drills, although I am uninformed as to the exact amount of this production.
2. The company's employer-employee relations are something every US manufacturer might envy. It not only provides the usual cafeterias and washrooms common in the US, but has also adopted a cooperative educational-recreational plan relating to the arts and sciences. As an example, many of the employees are interested in painting. To encourage this interest the company will pay half of these employees' expenses for a trip to the art galleries. Since its employees number two thousand the program is a major expense.
3. Carl Magnus Berger, whose family has owned the company for many years, is president. He visited the US last year (1952) for pleasure and to open new distribution channels, if possible. He appeared to be in his middle thirties and made an excellent impression. He was well educated in private schools in Switzerland and trained for the job he now holds. Despite the fact that he inherited his position he is probably better qualified for his job than most US executives are for theirs. He speaks English fluently and discussed his own line, and developments he had made in it, succinctly and without apology.

-end-

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